



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Jacksonville District

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Department of the Army permits required for floating docks**

MIAMI, Fla. – Contrary to some advertising claims that Department of the Army permits are unnecessary for the installation of floating docks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stated today that permits are, in fact, needed for such structures.

“The Corps regulates all structures placed in navigable waters,” said Paul Kruger, Miami Section Chief for Jacksonville District’s Regulatory Division. “All docking structures, regardless of type, require permits.”

The fragile and unique coastal ecosystems in south Florida require that only the least environmentally damaging structures be placed in waterways. Often, floating docks are not the least environmentally damaging structures. Since floating docks sit both above and beneath the water’s surface, they drastically reduce the sunlight needed for the growth of aquatic plants such as seagrass and marine algae, which are critical to the ecosystem.

“This is not one of those cases where it’s easier to ask forgiveness than it is to request permission,” said Kruger. “Docks, floating or otherwise, that are installed without a valid Department of the Army permit must be removed at the owner’s expense and the owners are subject to severe legal penalties.”



Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. 5403, prohibits the placing of any structure in or over navigable waters of the United States and excavating from or depositing material into such waters unless the work has been properly authorized by a Department of the Army permit.

The permit process for docks of any type can be time consuming. The particularly sensitive resources of the Florida Keys require a rigorous examination of the direct, secondary and cumulative impacts. Corps team members in Jacksonville District Regulatory Division and its Marathon and Miami field offices are always happy to assist.

Permit decisions in Monroe County are typically complex. However, a Regional General Permit does exist, which can potentially reduce the time required to obtain Corps authorization. The General Permit 82, better known as GP-82, may be issued within a few months of receipt of a complete application package. The application must be signed and include accurate drawings depicting the work, accurate latitude and longitude notations, and a map showing the location of the project.

Permit joint application information and forms are available on the Corps' Jacksonville District website at: [http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Regulatory/permitting\\_types\\_general.htm](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Regulatory/permitting_types_general.htm) or at the local Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) office, or by calling the Corps Marathon (305-289-8928 or 305-743-8869) or Miami offices (305-526-7181).

"Our mission is to both ensure that the waterways of the United States are navigable, and to protect the aquatic environment," said Kruger. "Florida residents care about and value our tremendous water resources and want to do the right thing to preserve and protect them. We just want to make sure that they have accurate information and opportunity to do so."

For further information, please contact Barry Vorse, Public Affairs Specialist, at 904-232-2236.

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